

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



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**FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT
PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AREA-E
PARALLEL PACIFIC COD SEASON CLOSES TO JIG GEAR
STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON OPENS TO JIG GEAR
EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-E-11-12**

The Prince William Sound (PWS) Area E parallel Pacific cod season will close to jig gear effective 12:00 noon June 29, 2012 and the state-waters Pacific cod season will immediately reopen to jig gear at 12:00 noon June 29, 2012. The parallel season closure coincides with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) closure of the Pacific cod jig sector "B" season in the federal Central Gulf of Alaska (CGOA) area. Fishermen are reminded that they must deliver their harvest within 24-hours of the closure and prior to participating in the state-waters season.

Approximately 53,000 lb remain of the 2012 PWS state-waters Pacific cod guideline harvest level (GHL). The state-waters season will remain open to jig gear until the GHL is achieved or December 31, unless closed by subsequent emergency order.

Vessel area registration is exclusive for the state-waters Pacific cod season, and a vessel may only be registered to fish with a single gear type. In addition, a vessel may not simultaneously participate in a state-waters season and any other concurrent Pacific cod season, including those in adjacent federal waters.

Bycatch, in aggregate, may not exceed 20% by weight of the directed groundfish species aboard a vessel. Regulation 5 AAC 28.265 requires that all rockfish be retained and any rockfish in excess of the 5% bycatch allowance be reported as a bycatch overage on a fish ticket with the proceeds surrendered to the state. Lingcod may not be retained prior to the opening of the season July 1, 2012.

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